

## N E W S R E L E A S E

**Contact:** Loree Levy  
Patti Roberts  
(916) 654-9029

**Date:** July 5, 2007

**News Release No.:** 07-43

### **Governor Schwarzenegger Fast-Tracks Unemployment Insurance and EDD Offers Extension for Payroll Filing to those Affected by the Angora Fire**

SACRAMENTO – Both workers who have lost their jobs because of the Angora wildfire in South Lake Tahoe and employers who were directly affected by the disaster will benefit from actions taken by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency's Employment Development Department (EDD).

For employees, an executive order signed by the Governor waives the one-week waiting period for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits for California workers who lost their jobs because of the fire.

For employers affected by the fire, EDD is offering a 60-day extension to file their state payroll reports and to deposit state payroll taxes with the department without penalty or interest.

"Our staff understands not only the emotional but also the economic impact of wildfires and other natural disasters," EDD Director Patrick Henning said. "We are moving quickly to ensure that unemployed workers receive their benefit checks promptly. In addition, our Tax Branch staff is ready to help employers affected by this destructive fire."

#### **For Employees Affected by the Fire**

Ordinarily, workers do not receive a UI payment for the first week of their unemployment. As a result of the governor's waiver of this one-week waiting period, claimants will receive two weeks worth of benefits in their first check instead of one week. The waiting period will be waived for six months on all Angora wildfire-related UI claims beginning with those filed the week of June 24, 2007.

The fastest and easiest option for individuals to file claims for UI benefits is on-line at [www.edd.ca.gov/fleclaim.htm](http://www.edd.ca.gov/fleclaim.htm). Claimants can also file by telephone (phone numbers are listed below).

#### **UI Claim Filing Telephone Numbers:**

English..... 1-800-300-5616  
Spanish..... 1-800-326-8937  
Cantonese..... 1-800-547-3506  
Mandarin..... 1-866-303-0706  
Vietnamese..... 1-800-547-2058  
TTY (non-voice)..... 1-800-815-9387

— more —

**For Employers Affected by the Fire**

Employers in the State of California may request an extension up to 60 days to file their state payroll reports and to deposit state payroll taxes with EDD, without penalty or interest. This extension applies only to the second and third quarters of 2007. The extension is granted under Section 1111.5 of the California Unemployment Insurance Code (CUIC).

State payroll taxes include Unemployment Insurance, Employment Training Tax, State Disability Insurance, and California Personal Income Tax. Written requests for extension must be received by EDD with a postmark date of August 24, 2007 or earlier.

To request an extension, employers must send EDD a letter specifically requesting an extension of time under Section 1111.5 of the CUIC, along with any late payment or report. The letter also must provide detailed information as to why the report or payment could not be submitted in a timely manner.

Employers should mail the letter and tax report or payment to the address specified on their filing form. If an employer has already been charged a late filing or payment penalty that he/she believes may qualify for this extension, the employer should send a written request to:

EDD

P.O. Box 826846, MIC 3A

Sacramento, CA 94246-0001

For further information, employers may visit EDD's Web site at [www.edd.ca.gov/eddemerdisaster.htm](http://www.edd.ca.gov/eddemerdisaster.htm) or call the EDD Taxpayer Assistance Center at 1-888-745-3886.

###